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Message Text

SECRET

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61
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 078993
O 311915Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2203

S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 2227

NODIS

DEPT PLS PASS CARACAS IF DESIRED

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MOPS CU GY AO
SUBJ: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: VENEZUELAN DEMARCHE

REF: A. STATE 305226; B. GEORGETOWN 2220; C. STATE 303982;
D. CARACAS 13503; E. STATE 304964

1. ACTING FONMIN JACK RECEIVED ME ALONE AT 1130 DEC 31. WITH YOUR TELEGRAM (REFTEL A) IN MY HAND IN ORDER TO IMPRESS JACK THAT WHAT I SAID REFLECTED RATHER PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS, I PARAPHRASED THE TELEGRAM ALMOST COMPLETELY. HAVING SEEN BEFOREHAND REFTEL D, I OMITTED SPECIFICALLY THE FINAL SENTENCE OF PARA 2 OF YOUR INSTRUCTION, SINCE OUR NOTE REQUESTED VENEZUELAN INTERCESSION WITHOUT ANY QUALIFICATION.

2. WHEN I FINISHED, JACK SAID THIS MESSAGE WAS A GREAT RELIEF TO HIM AND WOULD BE TO HIS GOVT. AS I HAD INTRODUCED THE SPECIFIC MENTION OF VENEZUELA BY SAYING THAT WE WISHED TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THE SOURCE OF OUR INFORMATION, JACK THEN SAID THAT HE WANTED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS NOT CONFIRMING THAT THEIR INFORMATION CAME FROM THE SAME SOURCE. I LET THIS DROP FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT TOWARD THE CLOSE OF
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OUR CONVERSATION I REVERTED TO THE QUESTION BY

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NOTING THAT HIS UNDERSTANDABLE RELUCTANCE TO
IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THEIR INFORMATION LEFT US
WITH TWO POSSIBLE PROBLEMS. ON ONE HAND WE MIGHT BE
DOING A DISSERVICE TO OUR VENEZUELAN FRIENDS IF INDEED
THEY WERE NOT THE SOURCE OF THE OBSERVATIONS WHICH
GAVE HIS GOVT CONCERN. BY THE SAME TOKEN, IF THE
SOURCE OF THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT US INTENTIONS WERE
NOT VENEZUELAN, THERE WOULD BE STILL FURTHER PROBLEM
FOR US TO IDENTIFY WHERE SUCH MISCHIEVOUS STATEMENT
ORIGINATED. JACK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS PUT THE MATTER
IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT AND SAID HE WOULD CONSULT AND
BE IN TOUCH WITH ME LATER.

3. AS MTO THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR HAVING SPOKEN
TO GUYANA OFFICIALLY, I HANDED JACK A COPY OF REFTEL
C TO LET HIM SEE FOR HIMSELF THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE
QUESTION WAS PUT TO STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN. JACK SEEMED
TO BE SATISFIED WITH THIS AND YOUR EXPLANATION, AND
ONLY REMARKED THAT HE TRIED TO AVOID THE PRESS LIKE THE
PLAGUE SINCE NEWSMEN ALWAYS CREATE PROBLEMS.

4. AS I MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED, JACK ALSO REVERTED TO
THE WELL-KNOWN THEME OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT
IN ANGOLA. AFTER EXPLAINING GUYANA'S STRONG FEELING
ON THIS SUBJECT, HE ASKED IF THERE WASN'T SOME
WAY THE US COULD BRING ITS INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON
GOVT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS. I SAID
WE HAD GONE SO FAR IN CONDEMNING APARTHEID AND SUPPORTING
MEASURES TO BRING IT TO AN END, THAT OUR
RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WERE SOMEWHAT DISTANT
AND COOL AND I DOUBTED WE HAD THE KIND OF LEVERAGE
WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO BE USEFUL IN THIS CONNECTION.
I HANDED HIM A CLIPPING FROM THE PARIS INTERNATIONAL
HERALD TRIBUNE WHICH INDICATED SOUTH AFRICA PUBLICLY
OFFERED TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM ANGOLA IF THE SOVIET
UNION AND CUBA WERE TO DO LIKEWISE. I ASKED IF GUYANA
AND ITS PARTNERS IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, PARTICULARLY
THE AFRICANS, COULNDN'T VISUALIZE THIS AS AN OPENING
FOR THE KIND OF STEP BY STEP DIPLOMACY THAT SECY
KISSINGER EMPLOYED SO EFFECTIVELY IN BRINGING ABOUT THE
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PRESENT ARMISTICE AND WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS BY ISRAEL
AND EGYPT. I ADDED THAT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT ONE
WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF
THE NON-ALIGNED TO ASK THE CUBANS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE
AND EVENTUALLY THE SOVIET UNION IF THEY WOULD BE
WILLING TO AGREE TO SIMULTANEOUS WITHDRAWAL UNDER
SUPERVISION BY THE UN OR THE OAU. JACK SEEMDED TO
GET THE POINT BUT DIDN'T SEEM TERRIBLY ENTHUSIASTIC

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ABOUT THE IDBR.

5. IN DEALING WITH THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE VENEZUELANS AS THE PROBABLE SOURCE OF GUYANA CONCERN, I GAVE JACK ASSURANCE THAT IN THE EVENT THEY COULD SEE THEIR WAY CLEAR TO CONFIRMING OUR SUPPOSITION, THE US WOULD OBVIOUSLY GUARANTEE THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE HANDLED WITH THE UTMOST DISCRETION AND TACT SINCE WE WOULD WANT AT ALL COSTS TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO EITHER (SIC) OF OUR GOOD FRIENDS.

6. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION TO GIVE MINISTER JACK THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE NEWS ON CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION MENTIONED IN REFTEL E.

7. FINALLY, I SHOWED MINISTER JACK A REUTERS FILE SLUGGED 0700 DEC 31 WHICH QUOTED AN INFORMED SOURCE AS SAYING LAST NIGHT GOG WILL PERMIT CUBAN PLANES BOUND FOR ANGOLA TO USE LOCAL AIRPORT FACILITIES, ADDING SOURCE ALLEGED CUBAN REQUEST CAME TO GUYANA AFTER BARBADOS PROTEST. ITEM ALSO STATED ACCORDING TO SOURCE TYAT GOG STATEMENT LIKELY IN NEXT FEW DAYS. TO MY QUERY WHETHER HE COULD COMMENT JACK SAID TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, WHICH HE REGARDED AS UP-TO-DATE, THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUEST FROM CUBA, AND HE SAID BEYOND THAT I WAS ALREADY AWARE THAT PRIMIN BURNHAM HAS TAKEN POSITION HE WILL CONSIDER AND ACT ONLY WHEN AND IF A REQUEST IS MADE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LANDING RIGHTS, POLICIES, INTERVENTION, DEMARCHE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GEORGE02227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850104-1555
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975122/aaaaabbx.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 305226, 75 GEORGETOWN 2220, 75 STATE 303982, 75 CARACAS 13503, 75 STATE 304964
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: VENEZUELAN DEMARCHE
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, US, CU, GY, AO, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006